

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS:

sub 16. Suitcase according to claim 15 wherein the plastic is a semirigid plastic.

26. A vertical suitcase of essentially parallelepipedal shape without rigid frame comprising

an upper surface part having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge and being a formed sheet of a tough material with a curved form defining an rounded first upper arris at the first edge of the upper surface part and defining a rounded third upper arris at the third edge of the upper surface part;

a front face consisting of supple material and having an opening and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge,

wherein the first edge of the front face is joined by the third edge of the upper surface;

a lower surface part having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge wherein the third edge of the front face is joined by the first edge of the lower surface part and being a formed sheet of a tough

15 material) with a curved form defining a rounded first lower arris at the first edge of the lower surface part and defining a rounded third lower arris at the third edge of the lower surface part;

E 20 a rear face consisting of supple material and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein (the third face) of (the lower surface part) is joined by the third edge of the rear face and wherein the

Q2 first edge of the upper surface part is joined by the third edge of the rear face;

a pair of tubes extending between the upper surface part near the first edge of the upper surface part and the lower surface part near the first edge of the lower surface part thereby achieving a rigidification of the suitcase by the pair of tubes and wherein the pair of tubes supports the supple material of the rear face, wherein said tubes are disposed adjacent to the rear face;

a retractable handle located on the outside of the upper surface part and including a pair of rods adapted to slide in the pair of tubes, wherein said pair of tubes consists of guides for the rods of the retractable handle;

a flap or panel covering the opening;

closing means for opening the flap or panel;

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a first lateral face being made of a supple material and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein the first edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the upper surface part, wherein the second edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the front face, wherein the third edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the lower surface part, wherein the fourth edge of the first lateral side adjoins the second edge of the rear face;

a second lateral face being made of a supple material and having sequentially a first edge, a second edge, a third edge and a fourth edge, wherein the first edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the upper surface part, wherein the second edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the front face, wherein the third edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the lower surface part, wherein the fourth edge of the first lateral side adjoins the fourth edge of the rear face;

a first elastic retaining ring hooping the first lateral side to the second edge of the upper surface part, to the second edge of the front face, to the second edge of the lower surface part, and to the second edge of the rear face;

a second elastic retaining ring hooping the second lateral side to the fourth edge of the upper surface part, to the fourth edge of the front face, to the fourth edge of the lower surface part, and to the fourth edge of the rear face.

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27. The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the upper surface part and the lower surface part are made of a semirigid plastic.

28. The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein (the upper and lower surface parts) constitute the separate elements forming upper shell and lower shell.

29. The suitcase according to claim 26 further comprising
a central part disposed between the first edge of the upper surface part and the third edge of the lower surface part, wherein the upper and lower surface parts are integrated together with the central part into an integral piece covered by the rear face.

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30. The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein a curved form of the lower part is imposed by curved extremities of the pair of tubes, wherein a curved

form of the upper surface part is imposed by the first lateral retaining ring and by the second lateral retaining ring, wherein the lateral retaining rings are made of metal, and wherein the lateral retaining rings are furnished in the form of two lateral frames defining the lateral faces in flexible material.

C2 31. The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the upper surface part and the lower surface part are fabricated from a polyethylene sheet or plate.

Sub D25 32. The suitcase according to claim 26 further comprising a zip fastener furnished for the opening and furnished on the front face of the suitcase and extending up to at least the aforesaid front part over from about 15 to 40% of the surface of the front part and for enabling a partial opening of the front face.

33. The suitcase according to claim 26 wherein the lower surface part is attached to the outer side of curved ends of the pair of tubes by riveting.